

Appln. No. 09/668,865
Amendment dated August 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 17, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The July 14, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to overcome the objections raised by the Examiner.

ELECTION/RESTRICTIONS

In the Office Action the Examiner states that newly submitted claims 16-27 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. Specifically, the Examiner states that claims 1-15 were directed toward a print producing apparatus and that claims 16-27 are directed toward a method of producing a print. Therefore, the Examiner contends that while claims 1-15 were drawn to an apparatus and claims 16-27 were drawn to a method, the newly submitted claims 16-27 (method) are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally set forth in claims 1-15 (apparatus).

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In response, Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that claims 1-15 as originally filed were directed to both an apparatus and a method. Specifically, claims 1-7 and 15 were directed toward a print producing apparatus, whereas claims 8-14 were directed to a method for producing prints.

In response to the first Office Action Applicants cancelled claims 1-15 and added new claims 16-27 wherein claims 16-21 are directed to a method for producing a print, and claims 22-27 are directed to an apparatus for producing a print.

As can be seen from the foregoing, original claims 1-15 and added claims 16-27 are both directed to a method and apparatus.

It is respectfully pointed out to the Examiner that new claims 16-27 correspond to the originally claimed invention (claims 1-15) and were presented as new claims in the April 28, 2004 Amendment for the Examiner's convenience in examining the claims. The Examiner is respectfully advised of the following correlation between claims 16-27 and original claims 1-15. Claim 16 corresponds to original claim 8, claim 17 includes limitations not previously presented in original claims 1-15, claim 18 corresponds to original claim 9, claim 19 corresponds to original claim 12, claim 20 corresponds to original claim 13, claim 21 corresponds to original claim 14, claim 22 corresponds to

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original claim 1, claim 23 includes limitations not present in original claims 1-15, claim 24 corresponds to original claim 2, claim 25 corresponds to original claim 5, claim 26 corresponds to original claim 6, and claim 27 corresponds to original claim 7.

It is respectfully pointed out to the Examiner that each of claims 16-27 do not necessarily correlate exactly to each of the original claims, since limitations have been added to the original independent claims and terminology used in the original claims has been changed to clarify the present claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the finality of the last Office Action be withdrawn, that the withdrawn status of claims 16-27 be reversed such that claims 16-27 are currently pending in this application, and that claims 16-27 as set forth in the April 28, 2004 Amendment be examined on the merits.

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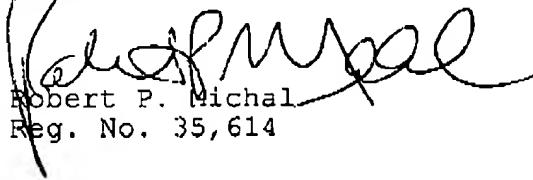
Entry of this Response under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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